

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROC ATHLETIC GROUPS IN SAN FRANCISCO

REF A. STAT 176655 B. STATE 177234

1. ON JULY 30 THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MOFA DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CHU CHIN-KANG AND MADE A PRESENTATION BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED REF A. MOFA DEPARTMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR KUAN YUNG WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE JUDO TEAM, CHU SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS ACTING ON FAULTY INFORMATION. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE ROC CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO THAT THE ONLY INVOLVEMENT IT HAD WITH THE TEAM'S VISIT WAS (A) TO CONVEY A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM TO THE CANADIAN JUDO TEAM THAT THE ROC TEAM ACCEPTED THE CANADIAN TEAM'S INVITATION TO VISIT MONTREAL FOR PRE-OLYMPIC TRAILS AND (B) TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS. THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSULATE GENERAL HAD DEFINITELY NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN PUBLICIZING THE TEAM'S VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO.

3. WHEN ASKED TO CONFORM THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSULATE

GENERAL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED ALONG THE LINES OF REF B, CHU SAID THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT
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TO ENGAGE IN PUBLICITIY EFFORTS BUT THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS

AWARE, NO INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED NOT TO MEET THE TEAM AT THE AIRPORT OR MAKE ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM. IT WOULD BE VERY AWKWARD IF IT BECAME PUBLIC THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL WAS UNWILLING TO ASSIST A VISITING GROUP FROM THE ROC. NEVERTHELESS, BUT ONLY AS AN EXCEPTION, HE STRESSED, HE "WOULD AGREE TO INSTRUCT" THE CONSULATE GENERAL NOT TO MAKE ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS OR TO MEET THE TEAM AT THE AIRPORT.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, CHU EMPHASIZED THAT THE GROC HAD NO RELATIONSHIP WITH SUCH GROUPS. ATHLETIC GROUPS WERE USUALLY LED BY PROMINENT PEOPLE ACTING ON THEIR OWN, AND THE GROC HAD NO CONTROL OVER THEM. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF OUR APPROACH, HE AGREED TO SUGGEST TO THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM THAT IT REARRANGE ITS ITINERARY. BUT HE COULD MAKE NO PROMISES THAT THE TEAM WOULD AGREE TO MODIFY ITS ITINERARY TO OMIT THE SAN FRANCISCO STOP.

5. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN MOFA AND THE DEPARTMENT OVER THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSULATE GENERAL HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JUDO TEAM, IT COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE TEAM'S VISIT AT AN EARLIER DATE THAN WE. WITH REGARD TO THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, HE WONDERED WHETHER THE CONSULATE GENERAL, GIVEN ITS UNDOUBTEDLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IN SAN FRANCISCO, MIGHT ALSO HAVE HAD SOMEWHAT EARLIER NOTICE OF THEIR PROPOSED VISIT. STRESSING THE NEED FOR EARLY COORDINATION ON PROPOSED VISITS TO THE US OF SUCH GROUPS, HE SUGGESTED THAT MOFA MIGHT WISH TO RE-EXAMINE ITS PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TO KEEPING ITSELF AND US BETTER INFORMED ABOUT SUCH VISITS.

6. CHU ADDED THAT HE SENSED THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVED THAT THE GROC MIGHT HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY TRYING TO ARRANGE VISITS TO SAN FRANCISCO TO OFFSET THE PRC PRESENCE THERE.

THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE AS RIDICULOUS AS HIS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ON MOHAMMED ALI. THE GROC HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH "BEHIND THE SCENES" ACTIVITIES.
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7. HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT THE COMMITMENT UNDERTAKEN BY THE GROC IN 1972 WAS WITH REGARD TO OFFICIAL GROUPS ONLY, I.E. THOSE WHICH WERE SPONSORED BY THE GROC. CITING THE EARLY NOTIFICATION BY THE GROC TO US OF THE PLANNED VISIT TO THE US OF AN ACROBATIC TROUPE, HE SAID THAT THE GROC WOULD CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THIS AGREEMENT FOR OFFICIAL GROUPS. BUT THE GROC COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO

GIVE ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE TRAVEL PLANS OF PRIVATE GROUPS, MANY OF WHICH DECIDED TO TRAVEL AT THE LAST MOMENT AND THEREFORE GAVE MOFA NO LEAD TIME WHEN REQUESTING PASSPORTS.

8. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR NOTED THAT WE APPRECIATED THE GROC'S EARLY NOTIFICATION ON THE ACROBATIC TEAM AND COULD ASSURE THE GROC THAT WHEN THE TROUPE APPLIED FOR VISAS THEIR APPLICATIONS WOULD BE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY. WHILE HE APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTY IN MOFA'S ATTEMPTING TO KEEP INFORMED ON THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF ATHLETIC AND VARIOUS OTHER GROUPS, MOFA SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IF SUCH GROUPS CONTINUED TO APPLY FOR VISAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE NOTICE, DIFFICULTIES WERE BOUND TO ARISE. IN SOME INSTANCES THE GROUPS MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO OBTAIN VISAS. THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ROC OR THE US. HE HOPED THAT SUCH DIFFICULTIES COULD BE AVOIDED AND THEREFORE THAT MOFA WOULD EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO IT TO MEET WITH SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

9. CHU SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER THE PROBLEM AND WOULD DISCUSS IT AGAIN WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT A LATER DATE. HE WOULD ALSO INFORM US OF THE OUTCOME OF HIS COMMUNICATION WITH THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM.

10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHU AGREED TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM ATHLETIC AND OTHER GROUPS, AND DESPITE OUR EMPHASIS THAT FAILURE TO DO SO COULD WORK TO THE ROC'S DISADVANTAGE, WE WERE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT MOFA WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE SOME RELUCTANCE TO COME TO GRIPS ON THIS QUESTION.

11. WE WILL CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE, HOWEVER, AND SEEK TO GET AS MUCH COOPERATION AS POSSIBLE FROM THE GROC ON A CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER OBVIOUSLY IN ITS INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS.
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